

FIRST RECORD OF FOSSIL FRESHWATER GASTROPODS WITHIN THE WINTON FORMATION.

Memoirs of the Queensland Museum 51(2):406, 2005. The Winton Formation is a mid Cretaceous (latest Albian to Cenomanian) terrestrial deposit which covers significant parts of the central west of Queensland and is the uppermost unit of the Eromanga Basin sequence. It contains a diverse flora (McLoughlin et al., 1995), sporadic terrestrial and aquatic vertebrate fauna and associated ichnofauna (Thulborn & Wade, 1984; Dettman et al., 1992), and freshwater bivalves (Hocknull, 2000). No gastropods have been previously recorded in this unit. Freshwater and estuarine gastropods are known in the Aptian (Etheridge, 1902; Kear et al., 2003), and early Albian (Hamilton-Bruce et al., 2002) of the Great Artesian Superbasin.

These two poorly preserved gastropod specimens are noteworthy due to their rarity and as the first record of gastropods within the Winton Formation. The material is preserved as part of silicified peat accumulations commonly referred to as "forest floor".

Family THIARIDAE Troschel, 1857

Melanoides Olivier, 1804

Melanoides sp. indet. (Fig 1)

Material. QMF49451, QMF49452, lowermost Winton Formation, Wanora Stn, NW of Winton.

Description. Shell turriculate, 14.9 mm high, 6.1 mm wide, spire angle approx 15°; no apex or protoconch preserved. Suture impressed situated well below mid whorl, whorls flattened, whorl face gently convex bearing regular costae. Aperture not preserved.

Remarks. A coarser non-cancellate ornament and less elongated whorl profile is noted on both specimens than that of *Melanoides godthelpi* Hamilton-Bruce et al., 2004. Affinity to the genus is indicated by the obvious ornamentation and shell shape.

Literature cited

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Fig 1. *Melanoides* sp.. Side view QMF49451, specimen 15mm high.

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